Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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67

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 INR-10 MMS-04 A-01 M-02 SP-03

PER-05 ABF-01 RSC-01 DRC-01 /046 W

R 112035Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1725

CONFIDENTIAL QUITO 4606

FOL TEL FM QUITO ACT USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ INFO JCS CSA CNO CSAF CMC DOD ON 11JUL 74 REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO QUOTE

CONFIDENTIAL QUITO 4587

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MASS EC

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF US MILITARY LIAISON OFFICE (USMLO) ECUADOR

REF: A. UR DTG 101934Z JUL 74

B. QUITO 4457 (DTG 081720Z JUL 74)

C. JCS 012019Z JUL 74

- 1. I DO NOT CONCUR IN DOWNGRADING REF B. MY CONVERSATION WITH MINDEF REPORTED REF B SHOULD REMAIN PROTECTED BY THE CONFIDENTIAL CLASSIFICATION AND THE TWO DOCUMENTS RECORDING THE GOE'S ASSENT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE USMLO SHOULD REMAIN ADMINISTRATIVELY PROTECTED BY THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DESIGNATION ASSIGNED THEM IN THE AIRGRAM (QUITO A-67 OF JULY 8).
- 2. THIS REMAINS A SENSITIVE ISSUE HERE AND ONE ON WHICH THE GOE HAS EVIDENCED SOME SLIGHT NERVOUSNESS. IN RECENT DAYS I HAVE SPOKEN INFORMALLY ON SOCIAL OCCASIONS WITH GENERAL JOSE MARIA MONTESINOS (SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL) AND COL. CARLOS AGUIRRE (DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ADMINISTRATION AND CONFIDANT OF THE PRESIDENT) TO INFORM THEM OF THE ORGANIZATION WE ARE PLANNING TO HANDLE MILICONFIDENTIAL

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TARY ASSISTANCE. THE IMMEDIATE AND UNSOLICITED RESPONSE

OF BOTH WAS THAT THE QUESTION OF A MILGROUP AND RENEWED AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE HERE COULD BE TOUCHY ISSUES, THAT THEY COULD POSE SOME DIFFICULTY FOR THE GOVERNMENT, AND THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS PLANNED (I.E., LOCATING THE USMLO PHYSICALLY IN THE EMBASSY AND INAUGURATING IT WITHOUT ANY REPEAT ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OR PUBLICITY) WERE EXACTLY RIGHT. COL. AGUIRRE, TO WHOM I SPOKE ON JULY 10, WAS ESPECIALLY EMPHATIC ON THESE POINTS. CONSEQUENTLY, I DO NOT THINK THAT WE SHOULD DECLASSIFY OR IN ANY OTHER WAY MAKE PUBLIC NOW THE FACT THAT THE GOE IN FACT HAS AGREED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A USMLO. IF WE NEED TO REVEAL THIS FACT IN THE FUTURE, WE CAN DO SO.

- 3. WHILE I CAN APPRECIATE AT LEAST IN PART YOUR DESIRE TO DOWNGRADE REF B FOR OPERATIONAL REASONS, I DO NOT SEE WHY THIS IS ESSENTIAL TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE USMLO. I WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION, SUBJECT TO THE CONCURRENCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, TO DECLASSIFICATION OF PARAGRAPH SIX OF REF C. WITH THIS EXCEPTION, I SEE NO NEED FOR YOUR UNCLASSIFIED DIRECTIVES TO REFER IN ANY WAY TO ANY GOE ACTION WITH RESPECT TO THE USMLO.
- 4. I CONCUR IN THE PROPOSED JULY 15 DATE FOR ESTABLISHING THE USMLO. AS I INFORMED HIM DURING MY JULY 5 CONVERSATION, I PLAN ADVISE MINDEF BY LETTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE USMLO.
- 5. IF AN UNCLASSIFIED MESSAGE FROM ME CONCURRING IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF USMLO WOULD BE USEFUL, I WILL BE HAPPY TO SEND IT.

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Message Attributes

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